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硕士学位论文

A Research on Illustrative Examples in Chinese-English Dictionaries for Chinese Users 内向型汉英词典中的例证研究

汪继敏

指导教师姓名: 陈 燕 副教授

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List of Abbreviations Used in this Paper

CCED: A Comprehensive Chinese-English Dictionary

CCED Concise: A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary

CCELD2: Collins COBUILD English Language Dictionary (second edition)

CED: Chinese-English Dictionary (Revised Edition)

CIDE: Cambridge International Dictionary of English

LDOCE: Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

MED: Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners

NACED: New Age Chinese-English Dictionary

NCCED: A New Century Chinese-English Dictionary

OALD: Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English (fourth edition)

C-E: Chinese-English

Synopsis

As an important information category in general language dictionaries, the illustrative example plays a key role in the quality of such dictionaries by supplementing the definition and supplying more linguistic data about the entry unit. Illustrative examples are of great help to dictionary users both in their reception and in their production activities. Researches have been done on the types, functions, etc., of illustrative examples by scholars, both at home and abroad.

However, issues concerning illustrative examples in C-E dictionaries for Chinese learners have hardly been touched upon thoroughly in the lexicographical circle in China. In view of the popularity of C-E dictionaries for Chinese learners, the present author attempts to make a detailed investigation into illustrative examples in such dictionaries in the hope of contributing to the improvement of them.

The present author has taken a multi-disciplinary approach in the exploration of illustrative examples, using theories of semantics, pragmatics, corpus linguistics and lexicography. Generally speaking, illustrative examples fall into different types according to different criteria. By context we get two kinds of illustrative examples: those that explain grammatical context and those that reflect the culture of the target language. By source we have another two kinds of illustrative examples: quotations and invented examples. By form we have sentence examples and phrase examples. By the semantic compatibility of grammatically adjacent words, we can classify illustrative examples into free collocations, restricted collocations and idioms. Illustrative examples serve one or more of the following functions: to reflect semantic information, to reflect cultural information and to reflect pragmatic information. Concerning semantic information, illustrative examples may reflect conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning and stylistic meaning. As to cultural information, illustrative examples may offer information about literary works and things or festivals with Chinese characteristics. Sometimes, illustrative examples provide users with pragmatic information which can help users produce English appropriately. Appropriate examples must reflect positive viewpoints, be closely related to definitions, be appropriate

concerning contexts, and have clear meaning. To select appropriate examples for C-E dictionaries, lexicographers should endeavor to provide typical, informative and integrated examples, and show grammatical information and pragmatic information through examples.

By making case studies of existing C-E dictionaries, the present author has dealt with two major issues concerning illustrative examples. The first issue concerns the source of examples. The author laments over the scarce use of corpora in the lexicographical practice of China and strongly recommends the building up of a corpus for selecting illustrative examples in the compilation C-E dictionaries for Chinese learners. The second issue covers problems with illustrative examples in existing C-E dictionaries. The problems include the insufficiency of examples, superabundance or repetition of examples, improper translation of examples and problems with equivalents in examples. The corresponding remedies for these problems are to give examples according to the complexity of an entry word, to bear space limit in mind, to further improve compilers' language skills, and to present examples that contain the same equivalents as the ones in the definition part. As to the last remedy, it would be even better if the equivalents in the examples have the same part of speech as those equivalents in the definition part.

Key words: illustrative examples; C-E dictionaries for Chinese learners; problems and remedies

摘要

作为语文词典中一项重要的信息范畴,例证可以补充释义,提供更多关于词目的语言信息,在语文词典中起着关键的作用。例证对于词典使用者的理解和产出活动都有很大帮助。国内外对例证的类型、功能等都有研究。

然而,国内词典界对内向型汉英词典中的例证尚无全面的研究。鉴于内向型汉英词典在中国有很大的需求市场,本文尝试详细探究此类词典中的例证,期望对改进内向型汉英词典例证有所帮助。

本文采用多学科的研究方法,综合运用语义学、语用学、语料库语言学及词典学中的理论来研究例证。根据不同的标准,例证可分为不同的类型。根据语境,例证可以划分为反映语法的例证和反映目标语文化信息的例证;根据来源,例证可以划分为引例和自撰例;根据形式,例证可以分为句子例和短语例;根据邻近词语间的语义兼容性,例证可以分为自由搭配、限制性搭配和习语。例证可以起到以下一种或几种作用:反映语义信息、反映文化信息、反映语用信息。语义信息可体现在例证所反映的概念意义、内涵意义、感情意义、联想意义、搭配意义和文体意义等中。文化信息可体现在文学作品和有中国特色的节日或事物中。语用信息可以帮助词典使用者恰当地使用英语。恰当的例证要反映正面的观点、与释义紧密关联、提供合适的语境并表意清晰。而选择例证时,词典编纂者应尽可能提供典型、信息含量大且完整、能体现语法信息、语用信息的例证。

通过对现存汉英词典中的例证所做的个案研究,本文探讨了两大方面的问题。第一是例证的来源问题。国内词典界对语料库的使用相对落后于国外,本文作者对此深感遗憾并强烈建议建立汉英语料库用于内向型汉英词典的编纂。第二是汉英词典中例证设置的问题。这些问题包括例证不足、例证多余或重复、例证翻译不当及例证中对应词的问题等。相应的解决办法分别是:根据词目的复杂程度配例、牢记词典空间问题、进一步提高词典编纂者的语言水平、配备含有对应词的例证等。倘若例证中的对应词与释义中的对应词词性一致,将更方便词典使用者。

关键词: 例证; 内向型汉英词典; 问题与对策

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